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Addendum

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 14. Crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 18th and 19th meetings, on 17 June 1999, the Committee considered section 14, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (A/54/6 (Sect. 14)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme, which was one of the priorities of the medium-term plan. The view was expressed that the programme of work was far too ambitious considering the available resources.

4. With regard to the activities on the prevention of terrorism, a question was raised concerning the division of labour between the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention and other United Nations bodies. The representative of the Centre explained that the work of the Centre in this field was not operational, but rather resulted from a division of labour with the Office of Legal Affairs, which supported the General Assembly's normative activities in this field, and that the Centre focused on research and technical cooperation.

5. It was stated that the narrative had to be strictly consistent with the mandates contained in the medium-term plan and that some activities, in particular the drafting of an additional

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protocol on computer-related crime and a convention against corruption and bribery, were not based on specific mandates. It was observed that such proposed international instruments had the same status as the instrument on money-laundering. The view was expressed that activities on early warning mechanisms should not be included in the programme narrative, since there was no mandate for those activities.

6. It was proposed to note with appreciation that a number of activities dealing with terrorism, which was one of the priorities of the Organization, were included in the programme of work, and support was expressed for the full implementation of those mandated activities by the Centre for International Crime Prevention.

7. The proposed increase in resources was supported. The view was expressed that the overall level of resources proposed for the biennium 2000–2001 was still insufficient to undertake the wide range of activities required by existing mandates. While it was considered that the use of consultants was excessive, the view was also expressed that they were necessary, given the high complexity of the tasks, and that they should be used wisely.

8. The view was expressed that the narrative did not adequately distinguish between core functions to be financed through the regular budget and activities to be financed through extrabudgetary resources.

9. Statements of expected accomplishments for the biennium were welcomed although it was regretted that those statements were not always accompanied by indicators of performance which would make it possible to measure the accomplishments.

10. With regard to publications, concern was expressed regarding the need to establish a balance between traditional and electronic dissemination methods to ensure that the needs of those who, for the time being, were unable to access information technology, such as the Internet, were met.

11. It was also observed that the narrative did not include references to gender mainstreaming.

12. The view was expressed that non-governmental organizations which had relations with the Centre should also have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that the decision of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to integrate a gender perspective into all the activities of the Centre on International Crime Prevention would be implemented.

14. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 14, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, subject to the following modifications:

(a) Throughout the document, the words "in all its forms and manifestations" should be inserted after the word "terrorism";

(b) In paragraph 14.3 (b), the words "to improve the capacity of States" should be replaced by the words "to support the strengthening of the capacity of Governments, at their request";

(c) In paragraph 14.5, the words "to reform legislation" should be replaced by the words "to improve legislation";

(d) In the third sentence of paragraph 14.8, the words "including law reform" should be replaced by the words "the improvement of their legislation";

(e) Paragraph 14.18 should be replaced by:

"The focus will be, in particular, on issues such as transnational organized crime, terrorism, the laundering of the proceeds of crime, corruption, environmental offences, illicit traffic in children and economic crime, which are all of primary concern to the international community";

(f) In paragraph 14.21 (a) (iii), the words "including early warning mechanisms" should be deleted after the words "financial crime".

15. Bearing in mind that activities related to the drafting of an additional protocol on computer-related crime to the convention against transnational organized crime and an international convention against corruption and bribery are not based in a legislative mandate, the Committee recommends the deletion of all references to those proposed instruments in the following paragraphs of this budget section: 14.17 (a), 14.20 (b), 14.21 (a) (i) g and h, 14.21 (a) (ii) i and 14.24 (a).